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*Used as attachment to
Comirex-0-15-1/*

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16 July 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, COMIREX

VIA : Maj. General Reynolds *gmh - MC&G study was approved by DEI and implementation actions are being prepared.*

SUBJECT : COMIREX Participation in the Field of MC&G

1. I am responding to your memorandum of 15 July via General Reynolds so that he may append his comment. While I do not want to upset the present working arrangements on the handling of photographic collection for MC&G until a decision is made on General Reynolds' study, I find one factor that bothers me and is not made clear in your memorandum. I refer to the establishment of requirements. As you know, it is my view that MC&G should not be considered as an intelligence program. Therefore, I do not think that USIB should establish the requirements for collection of information for MC&G.

2. The description of what your Committee does with regard to the assignment of priorities for photographic collection of MC&G data seems quite reasonable to me. As I view it, what you're doing is making a determination of how much coverage we can allocate to MC&G without undue interference to intelligence collection. This seems to me to be an appropriate function for your Committee. However, as soon as it can be done without upsetting the program, I think that USIB, and hence your Committee, should get out of the business of establishing requirements for photo coverage for MC&G purposes.

Rufus Taylor
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Director

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Attachment: Cy #1

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NRO review(s) completed.

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15 July 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Taylor

SUBJECT: COMIREX Policy in the Field of Mapping,
Charting, and Geodesy

1. In view of General Reynolds' study and your comments on this subject to Ed Proctor, I would like to outline for you the present COMIREX practices with regard to mapping, charting, and geodesy problems. These practices are interpretations of guidance or requirements approved by USIB and have been developed on the basis of experience. I would not plan to change them unless directed to do so.

KH-4

2. The KH-4 is programmed against specific "holidays" in the Soviet Bloc and Communist China divided according to built-up and underdeveloped areas, a certain number of square nautical miles in the Free World for "intelligence" coverage, and a further requirement for Free World coverage against "mapping and charting" requirements. At the request of COMIREX, the AMS maintains a map to guide the NRO showing built-up and underdeveloped "holiday" areas in the Soviet Bloc and Communist China. Mapping and charting requirements are included in these "holidays" without differentiation. On a mission-by-mission basis NRO is also advised as to which specific targets within the "bloc" but outside of the "holiday" areas, need to be covered because they are of current importance to the intelligence community. The NRO is instructed to operate the KH-4 against the areas shown on the "holiday" map on a weather basis with no distinction as to type of "holiday."

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3. At the present time most of the Bloc has already received satisfactory coverage for mapping purposes. Modest amounts are carried on the "holiday" map that have either not been covered or for which recoverage is desired to improve the quality of the coverage to enhance the efficiency of the map production process. Coverage of Bloc territory for mapping purposes also counts against our requirement for search in the Bloc and, vice versa.

4. Outside of the Bloc, we collect a modest amount of photography on problems of current intelligence interest. These areas usually involve problems such as the Middle East, India and Pakistan, etc. A small amount of photography is obtained [redacted] for operational reasons. The remainder of the photography taken outside of the Bloc is directed against the requirement for mapping coverage. The NRO expends film against this requirement whenever an area of good weather occurs in sufficient size over territory for which mapping photography is needed. At the present time most of the world with average or better weather conditions has been covered. As of 30 June 1968 the mapping requirement outside of the Bloc and the "bad weather belt" had been reduced to only 1,032,000 square nautical miles. The main outstanding mapping requirement involves the bad weather belt lying generally along the equator through South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. A large part of this area may never be available for photography [redacted]

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5. In summary, the NRO photographs a few areas for which urgent coverage is required regardless of weather conditions. Beyond that point the NRO expends film against our current requirements, the "holiday" requirement in the Bloc, and the mapping requirement outside of the Bloc on the basis of weather, it being the COMIREX view that it is more efficient to expend film against mapping requirements in good weather than it is to expend the same film against search requirements in bad weather or to obtain excessively redundant coverage of the Bloc.

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Index Cameras

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7. In view of the relatively low intelligence value of the photography from the index cameras and their importance to mapping, charting, and geodesy, COMIREX has authorized the NRO to operate these cameras normally to meet the specific needs of the mapping, charting, and geodesy community. COMIREX retains the right, however, to change this practice whenever it is desirable to do so.

8. The practices outlined above have yielded good results for mapping, charting, and geodesy at the cost of very little interference with the intelligence mission. If you feel that any of these practices should be changed, I would like to discuss the matter with you in greater detail.

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Chairman

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

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